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PROHIBITIONISTS

Do not Want the Truth about the Failure of Canteen Closing.

Ever since the passage of the Canteen law, which has done so much to demoralize the soldier, impair military discipline and furnish a fruitful source of scandal and disorder at army posts, the press of the country has been unceasing in laying bare the facts and enlightening the people upon the evils and dangers of the new order of things.

Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, because of the large number of men stationed there and its proximity to a great city which peculiarly fitted it for an experiment such as was involved in the substitution of prohibition for the temperance canteen, has been a storm center, and the experiences there obtained should of themselves alone be sufficient to influence Congressional opinion unfavorably towards a continuance of the present system. Prohibitionists know this, and they have employed every means, fair and unfair, to stifle the rising feeling of indignation in the public mind against those who were instrumental in the abolition of the canteen.

The *New Voice*, of Chicago, has led in the campaign of vituperation, and in the face of the most convincing proof of its failure has advocated a continuance of this odious law with a vehemence to justify almost the belief that it prefers a soldier drunk and disgraced to one sober and reputable, or would, rather than confess failure of its pet scheme to advance the cause of prohibition. It has temporarily ceased advertising and locating the prostitutes and brothels of Manila in order to focus its efforts for the degradation of the soldier at home. Ministers of the gospel, army officers, civilians and soldiers are mercilessly berated if they dare, in upholding truth and decency and temperance and morality, to dispute its assertions.

Some time ago a committee of ministers were sent to Highwood, in the neighborhood of Fort Sheridan, to inquire into the truth of the riotous scenes said to be of frequent occurrence as a result of canteen closing, and, of course, in accordance with expectations, reported everything working nicely.

One among them, however, a Rev. Mr. Dexter, was not satisfied, it is said because the investigation was made at a time when inducements to disorder were missing either before or after pay day, when the men were without money and therefore could not dissipate. Mr. Dexter visited Highwood, accompanied by a friend, on pay day, and the scenes he witnessed convinced him that a return to the old system was demanded, and he so publicly stated.

Now note what followed. Mr. Dexter was a sufficiently responsible and reputable man to be named on the original committee, and his opinion was welcome as long as it was supposed to be inimical to the canteen. But when, in the light of subsequent events as an honest man, he was impelled to change his former views and to uphold the War Department in seeking a return to the old system, and offered at a meeting of fellow-clergymen to explain his reasons therefor, he is refused a hearing, characterized as an "isolated, unauthorized and insignificant individual" and denounced as "an agent of the Government saloon."

Again, Rev. W. J. Dalton, a Catholic clergyman recently stationed at Detroit, protested in a letter to the Secretary of War against the anti-canteen law, basing his protest upon personal observation and knowledge of conditions before and since the passage of the law and acquired in his capacity of army chaplain. He said:

> Anything more mistaken than the canteen law I have never witnessed. It could only have been forced, as it was, by a lot of women who insist on having the last word and a lot of men who are not so strong minded. I think I never saw anything that so quickly drove sober men into drunkards' shoes as the operation of the same anticanteen law.

The *New Voice* is willing to admit that Rev. Mr. Dexter and his friend "were shocked at what they saw," but holds that as they had never seen a canteen in operation they were not in a position to say whether the new order of things was worse than the old and whether a return would be beneficial for the men. But when Father Dalton, who has had experience of both, unhesitatingly denounces the change, he is warned that "the less frequently he repeats his statement the better it will be for his clerical reputation." He may be a "very good priest," but when he undertakes to set up facts against the *Voice's* theories he becomes, in the eyes of that paper, a "very big fool."

These are the methods adopted by Prohibitionistsis to conceal the excesses to which soldiers have been driven by the withdrawal of the canteen privilege. When upright and honorable clergymen, in pursuance of their vocation, lift their voices in condemnation of the law enacted by Congress at the behest of well meaning but impractical enthusiasts, they are abused and threatened, their motives impugned, and eventually are driven to sever all connection with the religious bodies with which they had been affiliated, as has happened in the case of Rev. Dr. Dexter.

The bigots at the back of the anti-canteen movement, finding themselves unable to resist the overwhelming weight of evidence adduced against them, are now seeking to prejudice and poison the public mind by asserting that officers receive commissions on the beer sold and that brewing companies, like the Anheuser Busch, of St. Louis, and the Galland-Burke, of Spokane, Wash., own not only the post exchange buildings and fixtures but practically the profits from sales. Such slanderous stories are unworthy of denial. They serve, however, to show the depths of infamy to which their propagators have fallen and the lengths to which they will go to support their wavering cause.

The SENTINEL will see to it that Congressmen during the recess are kept well informed of the tactics of the Prohibitionists, and upon reassembling in December they will be in position to vote intelligently on the repeal of this ill-advised law.

A Pertinent Question.

If the tariff provisions of the Constitution do not follow the flag to our insular possessions, to what extent is the protection of the other provisions of that instrument guaranteed to them? Governor Allen has recently recommended that Porto Rico should be administered after the manner in which the West Indian colonies of Great Britain are governed by the "mother country." But the Supreme Court has decided that our insular possessions are "domestic territory" in all respects except as regards the right of trading without restriction with the country of which they are a part. They ceased to be foreign territory as soon as they were ceded to the United States, and no act of Congress was necessary to convert them into "domestic territory." But if Congress can pass tariff laws for these territories, despite that section of the Constitution which provides for uniformity of taxation, can it not also enact legislation which will deprive the inhabitants of our "domestic territories" of other constitutional privileges? If Porto Rico is not foreign territory are the Porto Ricans citizens of the United States, or still, as the Foraker act designates them, merely citizens of Porto Rico? Of how many "inconsistencies" may Congress be constitutionally guilty in making laws for our "domestic territory" of Porto Rico?

Cuba May Be Free.

The Platt amendment was accepted by the Cuban Constitutional Convention last Wednesday by a vote of 15 to 14.

By the adoption of the declarations set forth in the Platt amendment the last obstacle in the path of Cuban independence has been removed. The United States pledged itself to turn over to its own people the government of Cuba as soon as the Platt amendment was adopted by the Constitutional Convention and withdraw its military forces from the island.

M'LAURIN'S HOPE

Was to Lead a New Dispensation. He Has Failed.

As long as Mr. McLaurin stood on his right to repudiate the silver plank of the platform after it had been twice rejected by the people he had a large number of party men with him; and in regard to the President's foreign policy, as long as he accepted accomplished results and recognized it as his duty and the duty of every American to assist the Executive in establishing law and order in our new possessions for the welfare of the people thereof as well as our own at home (reserving to himself the privilege of conforming his future action to the wishes of his party in convention assembled), he stood upon ground defensible from a party view and unassailable from the standpoint of American citizenship.

The necessity of further discussion of the silver question is as useless as is that of questioning the assumption of sovereignty over the Philippines or Porto Rico. Silver is dead beyond resurrection and the Philippines are ours beyond recall. No possible good can come from attempts to put life into either of these questions and any attempt to impeach a man's party standing for bowing to the twice expressed will of the people in the former case and to the actual and visible and well nigh undisputed assumption of authority in the latter will not be sustained even when championed by so popular and powerful a man as Senator Tillman in his own State. Up to this point, it seems to us, Senator McLaurin was safe in his position, and we regret that an expression of opinion unhampered by other issues could not have been secured.

The interjection of other matters into the dispute between the Senators changes the situation. Between the Republican and Democratic parties there is a well defined divergence of opinion regarding home policies. Democrats are opposed to a high protective tariff and the trend of events in the past few years has been to strengthen the party on this issue. Infant industries we have no longer. They are all full grown and vigorous and well able to look out for themselves. Republicans admit this and the first move to withdraw governmental support has come from that side of the House, Mr. Babcock, of Wisconsin, being responsible for it. Mr. McLaurin, in standing for protection, thus arrays himself against his party and forfeits the name of Democrat.

Democrats are opposed to the general policy of paying subsidies to develop private enterprises, and in the specific case of the Hanna Shipping Subsidy defended by Mr. McLaurin and opposed by Mr. Tillman, Democratic enmity would seem to be well founded from a recent occurrence—the purchase of the Leyland line by Mr. Morgan. When ship builders here are unable to book more orders and the shipping business is so prosperous that men can go abroad and pay $75 per share for stock whose face value is $50, and see money in it at that, Democrats may well ask if there is any reason why our people should be taxed to swell the profits of such men already amply protected and waxing rich from it. Here again Senator McLaurin is at odds with his party and should forfeit all claim to its support.

Illiteracy has been found an evil of such proportions that the North long since took steps to regulate it. The illiterate class in the South is also the vicious one. The two combined threaten the peace and prosperity of that section. To protect itself South Carolina has been forced to adopt the expedient Massachusetts has tried with success. Disfranchisement is necessary to save the State from negro domination. If Massachusetts had had the experience of the Carolinas and other Southern States in reconstruction times the black man would never have had a vote there, could it have been prevented. In aligning himself against this necessary measure Senator McLaurin not merely antagonizes the ruling political sentiment of his State but the social and business as well; he forfeits his standing as a Democrat, sacrifices his self respect and impairs his usefulness as a future citizen of the commonwealth.

Mr. Tillman would have had no walkover in the struggle to chain Democracy forever to the chariot wheels of Mr. Bryan and all his vagaries, nor would it have been an easy matter to persuade South Carolinians that it was their duty, in place of aiding the President in the solution of his Philippine problem, to interpose obstacles in his path.

Democrats of South Carolina, we believe, will be found amenable to argument on either of the points, but on the other questions interjected, we understand, into the controversy by Mr. McLaurin, and particularly on the subject of negro domination, the South Carolina mind is made up. Mr. McLaurin has sealed his own doom and deprived a large constituency of the opportunity of enlightenment on vital questions by his action.

Had he aspired to be the Moses to lead his people out of bondage (to Bryan) there was hope for him as long as he rested his case on the two issues herein first referred to, which sufficiently emphasized the differences between himself and Mr. Tillman. In the course he has taken there seems to be none. Mr. McLaurin has opened a gap between himself and his people which time itself will hardly heal.

The South, the North and the Negro.

At the present time the people of the North are giving a great deal of their time to a discussion of affairs in the Southern States, and the negro in the South of course occupies a prominent position in the discussion. It is encouraging to note that many Northern men of intelligence have been visiting the South and have carried home with them much valuable information. Among other tourists the Rev. Lyman Abbott has gathered some facts which he told at a public meeting in Brooklyn the other day. Dr. Abbott called attention to the fact that while the North has sent $30,000,000 to the Southern States for the education of the negro, the South itself, out of its poverty, has spent $120,000,000 for that purpose. If there is any prejudice against the negro in the South, or any hostility to him, this does not look like it, as Dr. Abbott justly remarked. The war and reconstruction left the South bankrupt and it took years to recuperate. For this condition and for the condition of the negro the North was responsible. The North gave the right of suffrage to the negro and then left mainly to the white people of the South, bankrupt as they were, the burden of educating him for the ballot. This burden the North should in justice have shared to a far greater degree than it has.

Discussing conditions in the South Dr. Abbott said: "The negro in the little log cabin in the South is better off than the negro in the North in a tenement with fifty more of his kind." "Let us get away from the notion," he added, "that the South can't be friendly to the negro because they don't regard the negro as we think they ought to and as we would not regard the negro if we were living surrounded by them as they are. We must get rid of the idea that all men are equal and that every man has an equal right to a vote and an equal right to a place in society and an equal right to stand where everybody else does."

Many other gentlemen of intelligence, says the Baltimore *Sun*, who have visited the South in recent years have gone back to the North and have told the people there these same things and the newspapers have published what they said. A correct understanding may be slow in coming, but it will come finally. There has been talk in the North among politicians about punishing the South for disfranchising the negroes. Maryland even was threatened with a loss of portion of its representation in Congress and its electoral vote because it was believed that difficulties had been put in the way of the illiterate voter, notwithstanding that the right of Massachusetts to disfranchise its illiterate vote absolutely was conceded. But nothing has come of all these threats. Wise counsels so far have prevailed. It may be that the idea of building up a Republican party in the South is a delusion. But one thing is certain. Whatever the people of the South may think of high tariffs and expansion and ship subsidies, there can be no Republican party in the South as long as Northern interference makes the race issue paramount and renders it necessary for the white people to unite in order to prevent a return of the reconstruction era and negro domination. Self-preservation is the first law; after that is established then people may have time to talk about tariffs and subsidies.

AS AN advertisement of our colonial policy those starving Porto Ricans now in quarantine at Honolulu are a brilliant success.

CANAL HISTORY

Oceans were Connected as Early as 1788.

The proposition for an isthmian canal, to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, is by no means new. It not even originated in the nineteenth century. It had birth long before the age of railroads, and preceded the adoption of steam power on the water. The Edinburgh *Review* of January, 1809, spoke of it as "the mightiest event in favor of the peaceful intercourse of nations which the physical circumstances of the globe presents to the enterprise of man." But at that date the discussion of the canal was far advanced. In 1787 Jefferson, then our Minister to France, in a letter to Mr. William Carmichael at Madrid, said: "I have been told that cutting through the Isthmus of Panama, which the world has so often wished and supposed practicable, has at times been thought of by the Government of Spain, and that they proceeded once so far as to have a survey and examination made of the ground; but that the result was either impracticability or too great difficulty."

Again, in 1788, Jefferson wrote: "With respect to the Isthmus of Panama, I am assured by Burgoin that a survey was made; that a canal was practicable, and that the idea was suppressed for political reasons altogether. He has seen and minutely examined the report. This report seems to me a vast desideratum for reasons practical and philosophical."

Humboldt, in his "Political Essay on the Kingdom of New Spain," enumerated five different routes for the canal. The first is within the limits of Mexico, from the Bay of Tehuantepec on the Pacific to the Bay of Campeachy on the Gulf, following the rivers Chimalapa and Huasacualco, whose navigable waters approach to within twenty miles of each other. The second was the Nicaragua route by the San Juan River and Lake Nicaragua. The third was by the Isthmus of Panama, requiring a canal only thirty miles long, and was most favored by Humboldt.

The fourth was by the river Atrato, which, with its tributary, the Napipi, is navigable to within eighteen miles of the Bay of Cupica on the Pacific.

The fifth was by the same river Atrato and its tributary, the Quito. The waters of the latter approach near to a stream called the San Juan, emptying into the Pacific.

Between the two is a small ravine called De la Raspadura. Humboldt says that a monk of great enterprise, cure of the village of Novita, employed his parishoners to dig a small canal in that ravine, through which, and by the rivers, canoes loaded with cacao pass from sea to sea, and that this communication between the oceans was in operation in 1788, and was unknown in Europe!

After their separation from Spain the Central American Governments began immediately to consider an isthmian canal. September 18, 1824, the English house of Barclay & Co., representing a company composed of American merchants, made proposals to Central America for the construction of a canal by the San Juan and Lake Nicaragua. This proposition seems to have aborted, but in June, 1826, Charles de Beneski, representing American capitalists, made a contract for a canal by that route. The contract set forth that the canal should admit merchant ships of the largest class and be open to all nations on equal terms. Possessed of the contract, Mr. Palmer executed a deed of trust to De Witt Clinton, Stephen Van Rensselaer, C. D. Colden, Philip Hone and Lynde Catlin, by which they were made commissioners to superintend the organization of the "Central American and United States Atlantic and Pacific Canal Company." A financial crisis, and political disturbances on the Isthmus, killed that project.

Next a Dutch company was formed under the patronage of the King of Holland. General Verveer was sent by the King to Central America. This project was defeated by the Belgian revolution.

After this failure President Jackson sent Mr. Biddle to Central America to negotiate for a canal. But Biddle was unequal to the task and his mission was a mortifying failure.

Simon Bolivar, the Liberator, while ruler of Colombia, gave much attention to a canal. He employed Lloyd, an Englishman, and Falmarck, a Swede, both engineers, to investigate the subject, and they reported in England to the Royal Society and the Royal Geographical Society. Bolivar, at Guayaquil, in 1829, declared to an American gentleman that, having brought the war between Colombia and Peru to a victorious conclusion, he intended, on his return to Bogota, to employ his army in building the canal. But Bolivar was compelled by failing health to resign and soon after died. It is believed that, had he lived and continued in power, the employment of his tremendous energy and talents would have assured the completion of the work.

The next effort was a grant to Baron de Thierry to build a canal by aid of the rivers Chagres and Grande and the Bay of Limon. Santander, President of New Granada, made this contract. De Thierry was an usher in Cambridge University, and in that capacity met some chiefs from New Zealand, who, in a freak, conferred upon him letters patent as "Sovereign Chief of New Zealand." When he solicited the canal grant from Santander he insisted upon the use of that title, and when it was not employed his zeal for the canal abated. He was a mere adventurer. This brings the history of the canal up to 1835, and the organization of Biddle's company and its failure.

In 1835 John M. Clayton promoted an inquiry in Congress, and the result was an exhaustive report with appendix containing the opinion of Mr Radcliff, to the effect that what is now known as the Panama route was the preferable route.

The *Democratic Review* for November, 1839, recommended that canal treaties be made with the Central American Governments and England, France, Holland and Russia. Clayton made the first of these, with England, now known as the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and yet the project is but little farther advanced than when the monk united the oceans in the ravine of Raspadura, one hundred and fourteen years ago.

Tillman and McLaurin.

The simultaneous resignations of two United States Senators from the same State has happened but once before since the Civil War. Then Senators Platt and Conkling resigned because of serious controversy with President Garfield and Senator Blaine concerning patronage in the State of New York. The fight culminated over the appointment of a Collector of the Port. As now, with Tillman and McLaurin, Platt and Conkling each expected to be re-elected. The Legislature was then in session, and the disgruntled Senators, seeking vindication, went before it. Neither was returned.

The move is considered by the politicians in Washington as a very shrewd one on the part of Tillman. He was unanimously returned to the Senate. There is no doubt here that with his complete organization and his great force on the stump he will defeat McLaurin.

It is probable that the strength of the Republican National Committee will be thrown to McLaurin and that the President will do anything he can to help him in his fight. There are many old school Democrats in the State who will aid McLaurin.

The Decline of the Irish Cities.

In Ireland alone of all the countries of Christendom the cities do not grow. The Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Cadogan, complains in a speech in Dublin that they fail to attract the Irish youth from the rural districts. If the young men and women leave their holdings on the sod they love so well they do so only to emigrate.

What an arraignment of British rule is this confession! In Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, Austria-Hungary, in the United States, in England itself the cities are teeming, bustling, prosperous; they expand, they consolidate, they swallow great suburbs, they pride themselves upon splendid public works undertaken, upon parks opened, colleges endowed, health improved.

In Ireland alone—at the very door of England, which still holds it by the strong hand, which still denies it a "measure of independence," in Lord Salisbury's phrase—stagnation and decay rule even in the towns.

PENNSYLVANIA Prohibitionists have ten State organizers constantly at work. They polled 27,908 votes for President last year. New York Prohibitionists polled 22,043. No other State came up to the 10,000 mark.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Translated and Selected from leading European papers for the SENTINEL

ENGLAND.

Australia in the Fifties.

Sophia Beale, in Good Words.

While we in Europe were rejoicing over the opening of the 1851 Exhibition, the outward and visible sign, as the optimists thought, of a universal state of peace and brotherhood, Bendigo was attracting gold seekers of all nationalities. "Round about the Porcupine Inn the scene beggared description. Diggers were drinking liquor from all kinds of utensils, drunken fights were in progress on every side, and hundreds fought and clamored to get to the bar." * * * The methods adopted by the diggers of those days prove the richness of alluvial Bendigo. The sinkings were from eight to ten feet. The diggers wore "large sheath knives, and, sitting in a hole, they used the blade of the knife to flip out bits of gold." On Ironbank and Eaglehawk from three to four ounces a day per man was the average gain. But some men had richer finds. Imagine taking 32 pounds weight of gold from a hole before breakfast; $6,400 for the morning's work! One of the largest nuggets, the "Darcombe," was sold in London for $7,500; and, another, encrusted with quartz and oxide of iron, was purchased by the Victorian Government for $8,250 and sent as a present to the Queen. One day, when a man named Emmett was gathering twigs to boil the billy, he perceived gold shining in the quartz—a pleasant surprise! "It was spread like a pat of butter on a loaf of bread, as though it had been squeezed between two faces of quartz Yet even with this evidence of richness no one was tempted by the reefs: they preferred digging in the red alluvial. For a time this part was a visiting place for idlers, and a year later was being worked by a nigger, who broke off the pieces of gold studded quartz, built them up into little pyramids, and sold them as curiosities to visitors." The pioneers of the Bendigo reefers were two boys who afterwards sold their property to a German, one Ballerstedt, who, knowing the value of ore at sight, made some $200,000 by his purchase.

The rush to a new field was like the road to Epson on the Derby day; every conceivable kind of vehicle might be seen, from wagons to wheelbarrows The diggers were clustered on a favorite piece of land "like ants on a mound Hundreds lay upon their backs, with outstretched arms, gripping perhaps a pistol in one hand, a sheath knife in the other, and claiming to own at least all the ground they could encompass." Others were filling bags with the surface stuff. The din was tremendous, and to reduce this excited chaos to order in the allotment of eight feet claims, was the difficult task of the commissioners Some of the adventures of gold finding were curious. Two friends taking a walk one Sunday, sit down to rest, and find a nugget at their feet. They resolve to work the gully, so mark some trees on the way home. Next day they start; but alas! in the meantime a rush has taken place in the neighborhood, and the trees have been felled. Where is their rich claim? They cannot find it. They found the nugget on April 17, and by May 8 the diggers were "shovelling gold from beneath each other's feet." The two friends joined the rush, but could not get nearer than within a mile and a half of the rich ground. The gold was found at a depth of 2 feet 6 inches, and soon the friends left under the impression that it had been worked out. Another party took possession, worked it deeper, and sent 40,000 ounces of gold to Melbourne by the escort. May 26 being wet, the friends strolled to the surface hills where the best gold was being found; and there in the centre of it was the log they had sat upon and the tree they had marked five weeks before! In that short time it had changed from an unknown gully in the bush to the celebrated Eaglehawk, where 90,000 men were at work, and 120,000 ounces of gold were being carted away per week! This was bad luck for the friends; but they went on to German Gully, and in ten weeks' time had £800 apiece.

One of the curious phases connected with gold finding was the Sabbatarianism of the diggers. The men who did not scruple to settle disputes by a fight, the men who would rob others, the men who drank and gambled, would not dig on Sundays. They cooked, and travelled, and washed their clothes; they did all manner of work, but from digging they abstained; and the bad feeling displayed towards some Italians at Fiery Creek had its origin in the fact that the foreigners employed their Sundays in digging. It was a superstitious bowing to convention, to the customs of the Old World, an acknowledgment of an unwritten law of what the digging population was pleased to call morality.

Political Crisis in Prussia.

Manchester Guardian, May 6.

The political crisis in Prussia has ended, as was foreseen, in a triumph for the forces of reaction. The Elbe-Oder Canal bill has been abandoned for a second time in deference to Conservative and Clerical opposition, and the Government apparently intends to make no attempt to retrieve its defeat. The veteran Dr. von Miquel, long Vice President of the Prussian Cabinet, has been dismissed, partly, no doubt, because he has given only a lukewarm and equivocal support to the Canal project. But the removal of Dr. von Miquel from office may also be explained on personal grounds—Count von Bulow has found him probably too powerful and independent a subordinate—and in any case it will not affect the balance of parties. Had the Government any intention of fighting the landed interest on this important question it would not rest content with a change of Ministers, for Ministers are in Prussia mere Crown officials. That it has not attempted to use its vast influence privately to win votes for the Canal bill and seems to have no thought of dissolving Parliament and appealing to the nation against the selfish tactics of the Agrarians is clear proof that it will not break with the reactionary parties. The fate of the Canal bill is, indeed, chiefly interesting as an illustration of the close connection between the Prussian Government and the most unpopular and reactionary elements in the State—a connection which has steadily grown more intimate since Count Caprivi fell in 1894. Industrial Germany is virtually ruled by a clique of landowners who are fanatical Protectionists and enemies of progress in almost every shape and form—very much as England was in the days before 1832.

Compulsory Education in Copenhagen.

Pilot.

The School Director of Copenhagen was asked one day what percentage of the children, for whose training he is responsible, succeed in evading the compulsory education law. His reply was a look of blank amazement; evidently it had never occurred to him that any of his charges could be so demoralized as even to wish to evade the said law With one solitary exception, every child in the city who was physically and mentally in a state to be taught, was being taught, he declared. Nor did he speak at random; he had proof at hand for what he said. As for the poor little little solitary exception—a strolling player's daughter—the fact of her having escaped his notice for a whole year seemed to trouble him sorely. Yet here, in London, we have no fewer than a hundred thousand children who hardly by any chance cross the threshold of a school.

Special interest is attached to the educational system in force in Denmark owing to the fact that, in no other country, do the people start life so well equipped for their work. Go where you will in Denmark, the great majority of the working men and women you meet have keen wits, sharp eyes, and deft fingers Physically they are robust: mentally they are alert—"cute" as the veriest Yankee. They can drive a plough as well as they can read a lactometer, and heave heavy weights with as consummate a skill as they can argue. That nature has done much for the Danes must be admitted, for they are both thrifty and hardworking by instinct. Still, it is undoubtedly to the education they receive that they owe in a great measure their position as the richest nation in the world, per head of the population, excepting the English. For generations education has been compulsory in Denmark. Every child, unless it belong to the "invalid," or the "private education" class, must go to school when it is seven years old, and it may, if its parents chose, go when it is six; and there it must remain until within one term of its fifteenth birthday. With this arrangement even captious parents seem to be quite fairly content, thanks to the trouble that is taken by the school authorities to show deference to their prejudices, as well as consult their convenience. For instance, in almost every quarter in Copenhagen there are two board schools, organized and managed by the city authorities on precisely the same lines. The only difference between the two is that one is a Betalingsskole and the other a Friskole—the children who go to the one pay a krone a month for the education they receive; whereas they who go to the other pay nothing at all. These Betalingsskole are a most popular institution, for there are class distinctions among the poor as among the rich; and careful parents pay the fees gladly, delighted to be able to keep their boys and girls "select" at so small a cost. Out of the 37,482 children whose names were on the Copenhagen school list on January 1, 1899, no fewer than 12,586 were attending the Betalingsskole.

Palestine's Wine Industry.

Palestine's exports and imports are improving, though last year they were less than in 1899. Southern Palestine is occupied largely with German colonists, who manufacture wine on scientific principles. The vineyards have modern machinery, underground cellars and the other requirements of twentieth century wine making. At Richon le Sion there are cellars that store 1,100,000 gallons of wine, not to mention large quantities forwarded to Hamburg. A light claret and a dry white wine of fine quality are produced here, while at Sarona a variety of wines is produced. All these wines of the Holy Land excel, it is said, the common French and Italian wines. There is now an excellent prospect that the vineyards of Palestine may once more be of note, as in the olden days. Many parts of the land seem to be naturally adapted to grape growing, although the industry has for long been neglected, partly perhaps, because the Koran frowns upon the product of the vine.

One traveller speaks of a vine near Acre the branches of which formed a shelter more than thirty feet broad and long and bore bunches weighing ten or twelve lbs. The late Dean Stanley describes, as one peculiarity of Judæa, the abundance of the terraced vineyards, with their watch towers and walls, just as they were for centuries before the fall of Jerusalem. But in those days the culture of the vine was far more general than now; it extended south of the boundary of Judah into the region possessed by Simeon, and the late Professor Palmer tells us how he saw, even in the arid Negeb, or South Country, the signs of former vineyards. The revival of the ancient industry in this and other fruits is largely due to the Jewish colonies which have been planted by the liberality of their wealthy coreligionists, and the success of their efforts at once to help their own people and to make Palestine again a land to be desired is matter for hearty congratulation.